

The description taken at the time was as follows: an all-black, medium-sized petrel. The greater and median coverts appeared to have slightly greyish tips, giving the bird a possible wingbar in flight. The wings were long and narrow, the tail appeared short and wedge-shaped. Bare parts: iris dark brown, bill black and complex, feet pinkish flesh, three toes with black claws, dark sides to outer webs. Measurements: overall length 31 cm, wingspan 83 cm, maximum width of wing 8 cm, wing-length (carpal joint to tip of longest primary) 24.5 cm, length of foot 4.2 cm, tarsus 3.2 cm, projection of tail beyond toes 3.5 cm, bill 3 cm.

The identification of the bird as a Jouanin's Petrel was based primarily on the measurements and feet colouration following Harrison (1983). Bulwer's Petrel *Bulweria bulwerii*, Wedge-tailed Shearwater *Puffinus pacificus*, Mascarene Petrel *Pterodroma aterrima* and Herald Petrel *P. arminjoniana* were all considered and dismissed, either because of size or feet colouration. The only query in my mind on the identification was that the tail did not appear to be as illustrated by Harrison (1983), the sole reference available at the time. Harrison shows the tail as very long and narrow projecting well beyond the feet. Feather wear may have been partly responsible for the appearance of the Malindi bird.

Jouanin's Petrel is a little-known species. It is endemic to the NW Indian Ocean but its breeding sites are unknown. Large concentrations occur off Kuria Muria in Arabia between March and August and breeding may occur there. Dispersal areas are also unknown but Harrison (1983) gives the limits as south to the equator and east to 58 degrees E. The only previous Kenya record was also from Malindi and also in December (13th, 1953) when a female was captured alive in seaweed (Britton 1980).

Unfortunately the 1985 bird could not fly off when released and died overnight. It is now lodged as a specimen in the National Museum, Nairobi.

#### REFERENCE

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#### NOTES ON SOME UNUSUAL BIRDS OF THE BANGANGAI AREA, SOUTH WEST SUDAN

Between July 1980 and January 1983 an ecological survey was carried out in Bangangai Game Reserve, in south west Sudan, under the auspices of the New York Zoological Society (Hillman 1983). The aim of the survey was to gather as much information from the area as possible to aid in its future conservation and development. Particular note was made of birds as these are the one aspect of the fauna that is always evident in the thick habitat of the area.

Bangangai Game Reserve is situated on the Zaire-Sudan border, 4:52 N, 27:40 E, and is 500 m above sea level. It is an area of forest/savannah mosaic, being the extreme northern border of the Zaire rain forest block. The rainfall averages 1400 mm annually, falling between March and October. Bangangai is situated between east and west Africa, and between forest and savannah habitats. It lies on the watershed between the Nile and Zaire rivers. Because of its location, Bangangai has a great variety of mammals and birds that are representative of both habitats and both sides of the continent.

Notes on the birds of Bangangai have previously been published by Woodman (1936, 1952a, b) and Traylor & Archer (1982). Cave & Macdonald (1955) give some birds specific to this area. G. Nikolaus (pers. comm.) produced a mimeographed list of the birds in the Bangangai area, but has not indicated how this was accumulated.

A total of 274 bird species have been recorded for the Bangangai area by the authors given above and ourselves. Our own records consist of accumulated observations on each species seen, including habitat occupied, evidence for breeding, feeding, etc., during the above period. Long periods were spent at saltlicks in the forest waiting for Bongo *Tragelaphus eurycerus* during which birds were observed. Mist-netting was also carried out enabling identification of some species, particularly those identified otherwise only on the basis of calls. Some Palaearctic migrants were also ringed.

The notes given here first relate to those species we have observed in Bangangai for which there are no previous records in Sudan to the best of our knowledge. These are followed by records of birds which are of significant interest for the area.

Species new to Sudan. Previous distribution from Mackworth-Praed & Grant (1952, 1955).

*Urotriochis macrourus* Long-tailed Hawk

Previously recorded from Cameroon to Zaire and west Uganda. A pair was seen entering a clearing at a saltlick in January 1982. A curious kite-like whistle was heard - *pi-wiyooo*.

*Columba albinucha* White-naped Pigeon

Previously recorded from the Bwamba area of west Uganda, this bird is distinct by the white nape patch. These were seen many times from March to October. They were usually seen at saltlick clearings, in the tall trees found around the edge. They were possibly roosting there as they were most often seen in the evening and early morning. They were usually in parties of 5 or more, and were seen with a group of Green Pigeons *Treron australis* on one occasion. They were not heard to call, but their flight was noisy.

*Columba iriditorques* Gabon Bronze-naped Pigeon

This is recorded from north and central Zaire, to Angola and Gabon. In March a young bird came to camp, entering the houses and remaining in the area for some days.

*Bycanistes fistulator* White-tailed Hornbill

Previously recorded in the Cameroon-Zaire-Uganda forest belt (Serle

1982), they were seen here in March and May. On one occasion they were seen flying fast through the upper canopy of primary gallery forest, and later in the forest/savannah patches which cover a large part of the area. They were also seen in clearings in parties of 15-20.

*Tockus hartlaubi* Black Dwarf Hornbill

This is known from Zaire and Uganda, and was seen in Bangangai in March, April and December. They were usually alone, sitting in the upper canopy of tall forest trees, though one was seen in low mango scrub near the track, and another near camp.

*Ploceus tricolor* Yellow-mantled Weaver

Previously recorded from north Angola, east Zaire and west Uganda, these were seen nesting in March and May, in the top of a tree (about 10m from the ground) at the edge of the forest. On the first occasion 3 nests were used, and on the second 2 nests.

*Malimbus erythrogaster* Red-bellied Malimbe

Known previously from east Zaire and west Uganda. In October and November Northern Masked Weavers *Ploceus taeniopterus* were nesting in large numbers in a tree above camp. The Red-bellied Malimbe on several occasions was seen to hang on to the nests and was then mobbed by the weaver males outside and the weaver sitting in the nest.

The following species are felt to be significant in that they illustrate range extensions of birds which are already known to appear in Sudan, or are rarely seen. Previous distribution is from Cave & Macdonald (1955)

*Ciconia nigra* Black Stork

This is an uncommon visitor to the Sudan, and was seen in Bangangai in the months of March and December. Sightings were associated with the grass burning.

*Columba arquatrix* Olive Pigeon

These are resident in the Imatongs area, and maybe in the Boma Hills, as they are fairly common in mountain forests of southern Ethiopia. They were seen at a saltlick clearing in March.

*Merops persicus* Blue-cheeked Bee-eater

This is a fairly common visitor in the north, especially between Kosti and Lake No, but less common in the south. They were seen in January and March in wooded grassland.

*Phoeniculus aterrimus* Black Wood-hoopoe

These are seen in Sudan, Zaire and Uganda, but may be overlooked as they are shy and silent. One was seen in March in the upper canopy near a saltlick.

*Mirafra erythroptgia* Red-tailed Bush-lark

These appear on sporadic occasions from Darfur southwards, in dry savannah. They were seen in Bangangai in January on recently burnt swamp, which was then very dry. They were also heard singing on the wing.

*Turdus piaggiae* Abyssinian Ground Thrush

These are common residents in the Imatong mountains and Boma Hills area. They inhabit quiet forests, undergrowth and streams. In Bangangai they were found in similar habitat around saltlicks in April.

*Oriolus brachyrhynchus* Western Black-headed Oriole

This bird does not appear in Cave & Macdonald (1955), but was recorded for Bangangai by Woodman (1952b). It was seen in December in camp, where it was feeding from a hornet's nest.

*Euplectes gierowii* Black Bishop

This is an uncommon resident from Torit to Tambura, in grass along rivers and elephant grass. In July a party was seen which included females, in tall grass near a saltlick.

*Euplectes ardens* Red-collared Widowbird

This is common locally in wooded savannah near Torit, Yei and Boma. In August a group were seen in which some males exhibited the red collar while others lacked it.

*Mandingoa nitidula* Green-backed Twinspot

Cave & Macdonald (1955) report these from the forests of the Dongo-tona Mts only. They were seen in Bangangai, in August, on a track through the forest, near a group of redbtail monkeys *Cercopithecus ascanius*.

*Vidua interjecta* Northern Paradise Whydah

This species is known from the Aloma Plateau (Hall & Moreau 1970). In Bangangai, in December, a male was seen in breeding plumage.

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